

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

September Livestock Slaughter

Average Prices Received by Farmers: September 2004

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during September totaled 1.0 million pounds, unchanged from August but 23 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during September, 100 head above August but 300 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 838 pounds, down 13 pounds from the previous month and 8 pounds below September 2003. Total live weight at 892,000 pounds was 4 percent above the previous month but 22 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during September totaled 700 head, down 100 from August and 300 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 475 pounds, down 7 pounds from August and 8 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight at 334,000 pounds was down 16 percent from August and 32 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during September totaled 1,600 head, up 100 head from last month but 200 head below September 2003. Average live weight was 197 pounds, down 1 pound from August and 6 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 320,000 pounds, up 8 percent from August but 12 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during September totaled 100 head, down 100 head from August but the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 87 pounds, up 8 pounds from the previous month and 14 pounds above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in September, down 3 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in September 2003.

September 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. September 2003 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.74 million head, down 13 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was up 38 pounds from the previous year, at 1,266 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 15 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,300 head, down 18 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was 13 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.00 million head, 5 percent above September 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 243,600 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2004 commercial red meat production was 33.8 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year; veal was down 11 percent; pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	Aug	September		January - September		September		January - September	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
----- Number, thousand head -----									
Cattle	1.0	1.4	1.1	11.1	10.1	3,128.9	2,735.5	27,375.1	24,745.3
Calves	0.8	1.0	0.7	7.3	5.6	82.3	67.3	738.1	638.2
Hogs	1.5	1.8	1.6	17.4	16.4	8,573.3	8,997.7	73,323.0	76,262.2
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.4	257.2	243.6	2,215.7	2,111.7
----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----									
Cattle	859	1,149	892	9,741	8,642	3,841,020	3,462,349	33,661,136	30,461,742
Calves	397	494	334	3,690	2,737	25,325	21,622	234,485	210,390
Hogs	296	363	320	3,661	3,365	2,251,547	2,384,285	19,458,112	20,254,904
Sheep & Lambs	14	8	11	136	134	33,652	32,334	294,381	287,072
----- Average live weight, pounds -----									
Cattle	851	846	838	878	856	1,228	1,266	1,230	1,231
Calves	482	483	475	505	489	308	321	318	330
Hogs	198	203	197	210	205	263	265	265	266
Sheep & Lambs	79	73	87	96	96	131	133	133	136
----- Million pounds -----									
Red Meat	1.0	1.3	1.0	11.2	9.7	4,014.3	3,905.3	34,997.2	33,791.5

Prices Received Index Down

At 111 (based on 1990-92=100), the Preliminary October All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers is 4 points below the September index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index declined 6 points from September, while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point. Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, oranges, grapes and cucumbers. Lower prices were received for corn, soybeans, hogs, broilers and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of soybeans, corn and cotton offset decreased marketings of dairy products, grapes and

sweet corn. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points from October 2003.

The Food Commodities Index declined 2 points from last month to 116. The index is the same as October 2003.

Prices Paid Index Down

The October Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from September but 5 points above October 2003. Lower prices in October for feed grains, complete feeds and feed concentrates were offset by higher prices for diesel fuel, feeder cattle, gasoline and feeder pigs.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004 ¹	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004 ¹
	Dollars			Dollars		
Soybeans, per bushel	7.03	6.59	5.40	6.60	5.84	5.07
Rice, per cwt	7.27	8.45	8.24	6.44	8.38	8.24
Upland Cotton, per pound	.620	2/	2/	.678	.493	.477 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.70	87.70	89.80
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	59.60	68.80	66.60	91.50	85.80	86.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	86.40	100.00	100.00	97.80	89.30	91.10
Cows, per cwt ⁵	43.80	50.40	47.00	44.60	53.10	50.40
Calves, per cwt	101.00	120.00	117.00	112.00	129.00	127.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.370	.400	.390
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.838	.544	.503
Milk, All, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.00	15.40	15.50

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available.

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